

# Choice of Words Based on Meaning in Rhoma Irama Songs with Environmental Themes

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**Abstract.** This study aims to describe the word choices contained in Rhoma Irama songs with environmental themes that are seen based on the meaning of these songs. The methods used in this study include the stages of data collection, data analysis and presentation of data analysis results. At the stage of data collection, it is obtained through literature techniques, listening, and taking notes. This research uses a descriptive with a qualitative approach. The data source was obtained from 7 environmentally themed Rhoma Irama songs entitled (1) *Anak Kera*, (2) *Anjing dan Sampah*, (3) *Bencana*, (4) *Di Tepi Pantai* (ft. *Lata Mangeshkar*), (5) *Kemarau*, (6) *Malapetaka*, (7) *Mata Air dan Air Mata*. The results showed that the songs of Rhoma Irama with an environmental theme contain a choice of words from lexical meaning types, grammatical meanings, connotative meanings, denotative meanings, associative meanings, meanings of words and terms, and figurative meanings.

Keywords: word choice, song, meaning, Rhoma Irama.

## 1. Introduction

Language is a communication tool that humans have in everyday life to socialize between communities. The main function of language is as a tool for self-expression, a means of communication, and a means of social control [1]. With language, one can receive and convey all one's experiences and knowledge both physically and mentally [2]. This opinion is affirmed by Marsoedi [3] which states that humans can express thoughts, feelings and abilities (creation, taste and taste) to others through language. The existence of language in the form of spoken language and written language must indeed be well understood about the choice of words, the meaning of words and the purpose of the word. The meaning of the word can be found in a fragment of a word or one whole sentence as in a poem, novel, song lyrics and so on. Like the meaning of the word contained in each array of songs that exist often give rise to various kinds of meanings. Song can indeed be interpreted as one of the spoken languages. Song lyrics are a person's expression of something he sees, hears or experiences. To express the experience, songwriters use puns and language, in order to create an attraction and distinctiveness to the lyrics or verses. The song heard is not only interesting because of the creator's vocals and the rhythm of the music alone, but there is one more element, namely the choice of words and the creation of language using poetic words. With the arrangement and selection of words that are packaged in such a way, it is made to be heard and lived. It can be explained that in a song it also becomes a form of poetry in which there is a series of words that are formed into beautiful sentences. The sentence is packaged by the creator to express his thoughts, feelings, and desires. The words in the song are selected and composed by the songwriter with a diverse selection of words and language styles according to his thoughts, feelings and abilities.

The problem that will be studied in this article is how the choice of words is based on rhoma Irama songs that are environmentally themed. The purpose of this study is to describe the choice of words based on the meaning of Rhoma Irama songs with an environmental theme. A similar research on the issue of word selection has been carried out by Rizky Aziz et al [4] entitled "Analysis of the Use and Meaning of Diction Contained in the Lyrics of the Song 'Restless' Shaded Umbrella". This study aims to determine the language or choice of words used in the lyrics of shady umbrella band fretting songs. This research is qualitative descriptive research. The assessment of these research objects uses analytical techniques with data collection techniques, using literature research techniques. The result of this study was to analyze some of the diction used in the lyrics of the shady umbrella restless song, including *Dalam hujan dan malam gelap, Tapi aku tak bisa melihat matamu, Di antara daun gugur, Tergoyang angin, menantikan tubuh itu*.

Rhoma Irama is one of the singers in Indonesia who is still famous and still exists in the world of music. Every song lyric contained in a song always makes the connoisseurs of the song curious, which is about the choice of the word used in the song as if it were a certain code. The songs created and sung by Rhoma Irama certainly cannot be separated from the choice of words or diction used. The use of words that are always used by him to write a lyric certainly uses a choice of words that have each specific meaning. According to the Big Dictionary of Indonesian (KBBI online) diction is the right and harmonious choice of words (in their use) to express ideas so that a certain effect is obtained (as expected). The right

and correct word selection can add value to a sentence or phrase. The choice of words was also raised in very interesting language to arouse the interest of the readers. Through the choice of words and the beauty of the language style in the sentences will attract the attention of the reader in order to be able to live and feel what they write in the song. This is related to the existence of meanings or meanings contained in each existing word. In the lyrics of the song the placement of words is of great significance in order to cultivate a poetic atmosphere that is enjoyed and understood by connoisseurs. According to Trier (in [5]), a number of words that make up the terrain are like mosaic materials that divide and limit the conceptual field, consisting of conceptual units. The conceptual arrangement of the terrain was visible in the arrangement of the terrain he said. The word field is synonymous with concept, and concept is synonymous with meaning. What is meant by meaning is the meaning of the word field. The meaning of word can only be identified based on its relation to the meaning of another word in a word field, resulting in the refraction of meaning. Meaning can be interpreted as a link that exists between the elements of the language itself [6]. Based on the description above, the focus of this study will be to examine more deeply the Choice of Words Based on Meaning in Rhoma Irama songs with an Environmental theme.

## 2. Research Methods

The method used in this study is descriptive with a qualitative approach. The object of this study is the language style in some Rhoma Irama songs that have an environmental theme. The data is in the form of words and quotes related to word choice or diction in the lyrics of rhoma Irama songs with environmental themes. The source of the data is the lyrics of the song Rhoma Irama with environmental themes including 1) Children of Ape, 2) Dogs and Garbage, 3) Disasters, 4) By the Beach (ft. Lata Mangeshkar), 5) Drought, 6) Catastrophe, 7) Springs and Tears. Data collection techniques are carried out with library techniques, listen, and taking notes. The stages of implementation of this research refers to the main guidelines in the phrasing of the research, namely data collection stage, data analysis stage, stage of presenting the result of data analysis.

## 3. Results and Discussion

Based on data analysis that discusses word choices based on meaning in songs by Rhoma Irama with an Environmental theme, there are various kinds of word meanings. The songs analyzed totaled 7 songs with each title namely 1) *Anak Kera*, 2) *Anjing dan Sampah*, 3) *Bencana*, 4) *Di Tepi Pantai* (ft. Lata Mangeshkar), 5) *Kemarau*, 6) *Malapetaka*, 7) *Mata Air dan Air Mata*. A full explanation can be seen in the presentation of the following research results.

### 3.1 Types of Meanings

#### 3.1.1 Lexical Meaning

The lexical meaning is the meaning corresponding to its referent, the meaning that corresponds to the results of the observation of the sensory apparatus or the meaning that is truly real in our lives. The lexical meaning of the lyrics of a song called *Anak Kera* is found in the following fragment of lyrics.

- (1) *Untuk ketika itu*  
*Lalu di sana seorang nelayan*  
*Anak kera jenaka*  
*Kemudian dibawanya bersama*  
*Dibawa ke dalam hutan tempat asalnya semula*  
 'For when it was  
 Then there a fisherman  
 Witty ape boy  
 Then it was taken with him  
 Taken into the forest where it originally came from'

The use of lexicall meaning in example (1), it can be seen in the word forest has its true meaning, that is, a large land overgrown with trees (usually not kept by people); plants that grow on large tracts of land (usually in mountainous regions); the wild ones (about animals and so on). In the lyrics of the song, the word forest has a real meaning, which is defined as the place where the monkeys come from and can return to their place.

Lexical meaning in a fragment of the lyrics of the song Rhoma Irama entitled "Kemarau".

- (2) *Insan dan hewan turut bersedih*  
*Pohon layu kering dan mati*  
*Kering dilanda musim kemarau*  
*Yang seakan tak mau berhenti*  
*Oh Tuhan berikan rahmat-Mu*  
*Agar kemarau berlalu*  
 'People and animals are saddened  
 Trees wither dry and die'

Dry hit by dry season  
 Which seems to not want to stop  
 O Lord give thy mercy  
 In order for the drought to pass'

In example (2) the words *kemarau* has its true meaning, which is a period in the year characterized by a small amount of rainfall or sometimes no rain at all. The meaning of the word *kemarau* in the fragment of the lyrics of the song above is with the arrival of the dry season, in addition to being greeted with joy, it is also welcomed with grief. The dry season can lead to drought. This will disrupt the survival of living things such as humans, animals, and plants. Human life will also not be able to run well continuously. This also affects the life of animals and plants. Plants that experience prolonged drought will make plants develop perfectly. Plants life will become less fertile, such as fallen leaves and make plants not grow and develop properly.

The lexical meaning in the lyric fragment of rhoma Irama song entitled "Mata Air dan Air Mata" is found in the following fragment of lyrics.

(3) *Panas sungguh menyengat*  
*Bagai membakar bumi ini*  
*Resah berjuta insan*  
*Di dalam menanti turunnya hujan*  
*Jerit lapar menggema*  
*Ratap dan tangisan serta doa*  
*Tiada putus terucap*  
*Dari segelintir orang beriman*  
*Air mata pun mengalir*  
*Mata air yang mengering*  
*Tandus-gersang bumi ini*  
*Tiada air setetes*  
 'The heat is really scorching  
 It's like burning this earth  
 Fretting over millions of people  
 Inside waiting for the rain  
 The hungry screams echoed  
 Wailing and crying and prayer  
 Unbroken  
 Of the few believers  
 Tears flowed down  
 Drying springs  
 This earth-arid barren  
 No drop of water'

In the lyrics of Rhoma's song entitled "Mata Air dan Air Mata", a lexical meaning is found in the words rain and water. The word rain in the dictionary has the meaning of dots of water falling from the air due to the cooling process. The choice of the word is in accordance with the meaning contained in the lyrics of the song above, which is related to the rain falling. The word water has the meaning of a colorless, tasteless, and odorless clear liquid necessary in the lives of humans, animals, and plants that chemically contain hydrogen and oxygen. The choice of the word is in accordance with the meaning contained in the lyrics of the song above, which is related to the rain falling which results in water droplets.

### 3.1.2 Grammatical Meaning

Grammatical meanings are meanings that occur or arise within a grammatical process, such as the process of affixation, the process of duplication or the process of composition. Grammatical meaning is also obtained in the lyrics of the song by the process of duplicating various words so that they become various such as the following sentence. All kinds of catastrophes. This means that there are world conditions that are not doing well with various types of disasters that come to bring disasters. The process of duplication also occurs in the word nation. The grammatical meaning in the lyrics of a song called Rhoma entitled "Mata Air dan Air Mata" is contained in the following fragment of lyrics.

(4) *Air mata pun mengalir*  
*Mata air yang mengering*  
*Tandus-gersang bumi ini*  
*Tiada air setetes*  
 'Tears flowed down  
 Drying springs  
 This earth-arid barren  
 No drop of water'

Grammatical meanings found in the selection of the word barren-arid are two words that have the same meaning. Barren has a meaning in the class of adjectives or adjectives so that barren can change nouns or pronouns, usually by explaining

them or making them more specific. In the big dictionary, the meaning of barren is that it cannot be overgrown with plants or plants due to lack of nutrients (about the soil). Another meaning of barren is arid. The choice of this word contains a grammatical meaning because in the context of the sentence barren-arid this earth has a meaning as if this earth is indeed not doing well or is like a dry or infertile land.

### 3.1.3 Connotative Meaning and Denotative Meaning

Connotative meaning is a meaning that is added to the meaning of denotation, and relates to the value of the taste that uses the word [7]. The connotative meaning of the lyrics of the song entitled *Kemarau* is found in the following fragment of the lyrics.

(5) *Panas terik sang matahari*  
*Bagai akan membakar bumi*  
*Begitulah bumi yang kering*  
*Menanti hujan menyirami*  
 ‘The scorching heat of the sun  
 Like it’s going to burn the earth  
 Such is the dry earth  
 Waiting for the rain to water’

In example (5) the words *menyirami* does not mean pouring water on an object, but includes a metaphor of as if the rain was pouring directly. The word burn is a word with a connotation meaning. So, the word cannot be interpreted as doing activities using fire to remove something such as garbage and so on. Eating this word burning is an allusion to the sentence to mean as if the earth is hot as if it is burned. Denotative meaning or often called denotational meaning, conceptual meaning or cognitive meaning that is meaning that corresponds to the results of observation according to sight, smell, hearing, feeling or other experiences. The denotative meaning is found in the lyrics of the song entitled “*Kemarau*”.

(6) *Kemarau*  
*Setahun sudah tak turun hujan*  
*Bumi kering menangis retak*  
*Tiada daun walau sepuuk*  
*Tiada air walau setetes*  
*Bagaikan musafir yang haus*  
*Di tengah gurun sahara*  
*Panas terik sang matahari*

*Bagai akan membakar bumi*  
*Begitulah bumi yang kering*  
*Menanti hujan menyirami*  
*Insan dan hewan turut bersedih*  
*Pohon layu kering dan mati*  
*Kering dilanda musim kemarau*  
*Yang seakan tak mau berhenti*  
*Oh Tuhan berikan rahmat-Mu*  
*Agar kemarau berlalu*

‘Dry season  
 It hasn’t rained for a year  
 Dry earth crying cracks  
 No leaves even a bunch  
 No water even a drop  
 Like a thirsty traveler  
 In the middle of the sahara desert  
 The scorching heat of the sun

Like it’s going to burn the earth  
 Such is the dry earth  
 Waiting for the rain to water  
 People and animals are saddened  
 Trees wither dry and die  
 Dry hit by dry season  
 Which seems to not want to stop  
 O Lord give thy mercy  
 In order for the drought to pass’

Denotative meaning means the actual meaning or the original meaning. From the lyrics above, it can be interpreted that it has been one year since it last rained on the earth. So that the earth is experiencing drought, and this is in accordance with the title of this song, namely "Kemarau". Even a drop of no water flows on the earth. The phrase scorching heat has the real meaning, that is, the heat from the sun shining on the earth. The heat of the sun seems to be able to make the earth experience fires, and the earth becomes drier and drier. Then the word *bersedih* means the original, a living being who was also saddened by the drought that hit the earth. Plants also withered and dried. It can be said that the song "Kemarau" has more denotative or original meaning in each fragment of the lyrics.

### 3.1.4 Associative Meaning

An associative meaning is a meaning used to symbolize something. The associative meaning can be seen in the following fragment of the song "Mata Air dan Air Mata".

- (7) *Jerit lapar menggema*  
*Ratap dan tangisan serta doa*  
*Tiada putus terucap*  
*Dari segelintir orang beriman*  
 'The hungry screams echoed  
 Wailing and crying and prayer  
 Unbroken  
 Of the few believers'

The word *jerit* does not mean human screams, but has the meaning that many humans on earth are experiencing hunger problems.

### 3.1.5 Meaning of Words and Terms

The meaning of the word is a meaning that is still general, or the meaning of the word. While the meaning of the term is more used specifically, as in terms in certain fields.

- (8) *Bagaikan musafir yang haus*  
*Di tengah gurun sahara*  
 'Like a thirsty traveler  
 In the middle of the sahara desert'

For example, in the fragment of the lyrics of the song entitled "Kemarau" above. The word traveler is one of the terms in Arabic and is widely used in the religious field.

- (9) *Tuhan, dosa apakah kiranya*  
*Hingga Kaumurkai semua*  
*Adzab pedih-Mu yang menggoncangkan hati*  
 'God, what sin is it to be  
 Up to kaumurkai all  
 Your heart-shaking adzab'

Then in the fragment of the lyrics "Mata Air dan Air Mata" also has the meaning of the term, which is the word *adzab* which is more widely used in the religious field.

### 3.1.6 Figurative Meaning

The figurative meaning or also called figurative is a meaning that has no true meaning, or is the opposite of a lexical, conceptual, and denotative meaning. In the song Rhoma Irama with an environmental theme there is this meaning in the lyrics, for example as in the example in the title "Di Tepi Pantai" below.

- (10) *Di tepi pantai cinta bersemi*  
*Ombak putih menari menjadi saksi*  
 'On the shores of the beach love blossoms  
 Dancing white waves bear witness'

The second sentence on the fragment has a figurative meaning, more precisely it contains the meaning of personification. The waves are depicted dancing like humans. The real meaning is that the waves are moving around rolling on the beach.

## Conclusion

The choice of words based on meaning in Rhoma Irama songs with an environmental theme does give an interesting impression of understanding and taste value for connoisseurs. Analysis of these words is used with the aim of making it easier to disclose the idea of the author, so that the reader will be easier to understand the meaning of the lyrics of the song that Rhoma Irama created. This can be clearly seen in the research above which can be concluded that Rhoma Irama songs contain word choices based on the meaning of a particular word. The choice of words is based on various types of

meanings, namely connotative meanings, denotative meanings, lexical meanings, grammatical meanings, associative meanings, figurative meanings, meanings of words and terms.

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